

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

A. SANADA et al

Serial No.

Filed: November 16, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR RENTAL
STORAGE SYSTEM**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, the first full paragraph, lines 5 to 9, replace the paragraph with:

The present invention relates to a storage system, more specifically, to a charging method based on the used volume of the storage system, the reduced initial investment for a storage system, and easy volume addition of the storage system, and to a storage system for realizing the charging method.

Page 8, the first full paragraph, lines 7-14, replace the paragraph with:

The management part 14 of the storage system 10 has a table for managing on-demand flag information. The on-demand